



NATURAL RESOURCES INTERIM BUDGET COMMITTEE

67th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Duane Ankney
Janet Ellis
Tom Jacobson
Jeffrey Welborn

HOUSE MEMBERS

Kenneth Holmlund
Jim Keane
Joe Read
Jerry Schillinger

COMMITTEE STAFF

Robert Miller - Fiscal Analyst
Alice Hecht - Fiscal Analyst
Joanne Kauzlarich - Secretary
Brent Doig - OBPP Staffer
Gerry Murphy - OBPP Staffer

MINUTES LOG

September 15, 2021

Room 317

Helena, Montana

Please note: This document is a Minutes Log and provides annotation of the time elapsed between the beginning of the meeting and the time at which the item was presented or discussed, a motion was made, or a vote was taken. The narrative presented here is provided only as a guide to the audio or video recording of the meeting. The official discussion, motion, or vote is available on the audio or video archive of this meeting. The Legislature does not prepare a transcript of the meeting activities. The time designation may be used to locate the referenced discussion on the audio or video recording of this meeting.

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MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. Kenneth Holmlund, Chair (R)
Sen. Janet Ellis (D)
Sen. Tom Jacobson (D)
Rep. Joe Read (R)
Rep. Jerry Schillinger (R)
Sen. Jeffrey Welborn (R)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Sen. Duane Ankney (R)
Rep. Jim Keane (D)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Robert Miller, Fiscal Analyst
Alice Hecht, Fiscal Analyst
Joanne Kauzlarich, Secretary
Brent Doig, OBPP Staffer
Gerry Murphy, OBPP Staffer

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

VISITORS' LIST ([Attachment 2](#))

COMMITTEE ACTION

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

08:40:58 Chair Kenneth Holmlund called the meeting to order at 8:40 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

08:43:07 Sen. Jacobson moved that proxy voting be authorized for this Interim Budget Committee and move that for the exercise of a proxy to be valid the deputized member must hold a written proxy from the absent member in advance of a vote. Electronic means such as an email or text constitute a valid means of providing a proxy to the deputized member.

Vote:

08:43:07 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

08:43:48 Rob Miller, LFD Senior Fiscal Analyst, reviewed the legislative website with the committee.

FYE 2021 Financial Report, LFD Staff

08:51:31 Rob Miller presented the FYE 2021 Financial Report ([Exhibit 1](#))

09:08:43 Sen. Ellis clarified that this report was through the end of the last fiscal year, which was through the end of 2021.

09:09:18 Rob Miller responded.

09:09:22 Sen. Ellis asked for clarification on the acronyms used in the report.

09:10:05 Rob Miller responded.

09:10:21 Sen. Ellis responded.

09:10:34 Rob Miller clarified the handout.

09:13:53 Chair Holmlund discussed how public testimony will be handled and future committee organization.

Department of Natural Resources & Conservation

09:16:16 Director Amanda Kaster, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), introduced her staff, presented an overview of the current website, as well as current issues DNRC is working on.

09:23:09 Shawn Thomas, Trust Lands Program Manager, DNRC, gave an overview of the Angela Farms acquisition.

09:27:25 Chair Holmlund asked how much wheat will be cut for hay, and how much will be actually be harvested.

09:28:04 Shawn Thomas responded.

09:28:47 Chair Holmlund asked what happens if the producer goes bankrupt within the 10 year period.

09:29:06 Shawn Thomas responded.

09:30:52 Sen. Welborn asked how the wind rates are calculated on the project.

09:31:34 Shawn Thomas responded.

09:33:23 Sen. Welborn asked if this wind development is done in harmony with current Agriculture producers.

09:33:50 Shawn Thomas responded.

09:34:38 Sen. Welborn asked if the cost of a megawatt goes up if the revenue for the state would also be adjusted.

09:34:49 Shawn Thomas responded.

09:34:59 Chair Holmlund commented.

09:35:44 Sen. Welborn asked how many miles it is from the pile of gravel to Hellcreek road.

09:35:59 Chair Holmlund asked if after production increases if the lease cost would also increase based on production.

09:36:18 Shawn Thomas responded.

09:36:28 Chair Holmlund asked if the state has had any concerns with the contractors.

09:36:36 Shawn Thomas responded.

09:37:24 Chair Holmlund asked if the one in Colstrip is also on state land.

09:37:53 Shawn Thomas responded.

09:38:51 Chair Holmlund commented.

09:39:09 Sen. Jacobson asked how the cost of leasing from the state compared with market rates.

09:39:36 Shawn Thomas responded.

09:40:20 Sen. Jacobson asked if these rates applied to state land surrounded by private land.

09:40:46 Shawn Thomas responded.

09:41:41 Anna Pakenham Stevenson, Administrator, Water Resources Division, DNRC, presented report on state owned dams.

09:44:22 Sen. Ellis asked about the Broadwater Missouri Diversion Project.

09:44:54 Anna Pakenham Stevenson responded.

09:45:17 Sen. Welborn asked if Tongue river dam is on Tongue river reservoir and clarified that this is the dam that underwent reconstruction in the 1990's.

09:45:50 Anna Pakenham Stevenson responded.

09:46:01 Sen. Welborn comments.

09:46:07 Anna Pakenham Stevenson responded.

09:46:23 Chair Holmlund asked if they have been involved in Salinity studies of Tongue River.

09:46:41 Anna Pakenham Stevenson, DNRC, responded.

09:46:47 Sen. Jacobson asked what the role of DNRC is in the allocation of federal infrastructure dollars and how will this impact the dams in Montana.

09:47:05 Anna Pakenham Stevenson responded.

09:48:04 Chair Holmlund asked if another hydro plant operator was hired.

09:48:18 Anna Pakenham Stevenson responded.

09:48:25 Chair Holmlund asked how many applicants they are looking at.

09:48:28 Anna Pakenham Stevenson responded.

09:48:35 Chair Holmlund stated that the comment was made that there weren't any applicants previously. He asked if the design for the west fork had been completed.

09:48:47 Anna Pakenham Stevenson responded.

09:49:04 Chair Holmlund restated the west fork.

09:49:30 Anna Pakenham Stevenson asks if she may get back to him with an answer to his question at a later date.

09:49:40 Sen. Welborn clarified that the Chair was referring to Painted Rocks reservoir.

09:49:48 Anna Pakenham Stevenson responded.

09:50:27 Mark Bostrom, Administrator of Conservation and Resource Development Division (CARD), gave fiscal 2021 overview. ([Exhibit 2](#))

09:55:31 Rep. Keane joined the meeting.

09:55:51 Rep. Marler joined the meeting.

09:56:45 Chair Holmlund stated in the past the Conservation District had volunteered to run the check stations. He asked if this arrangement would continue or would they be paid for their time.

09:57:01 Mark Bostrom responded.

09:58:46 Chair Holmlund asked if there were plans to expand check station coverage by the conservation districts.

09:58:55 Mark Bostrom responded.

09:59:40 Director Amanda Kaster, DNRC, introduced Sonja Germann.

09:59:59 Sonya Germann, Division Administrator, Forestry Division, DNRC, introduced herself and offered to provide information on GNA at this time or during the workplan session.

10:01:02 Chair Holmlund stated that during the workplan session in the afternoon would be preferable.

10:01:15 Sonya Germann presented the fire season update.

10:11:48 Chair Holmlund responded.

10:11:59 Sonya Germann answered questions that were previously sent to her.

10:14:49 Sue Clark, Deputy Division Administrator, Forestry Division, DNRC, presented update on building in Miles City.

10:16:14 Sen. Welborn commended the efficiency of emergency workers response to wildfire.

10:17:25 Chair Holmlund concurred with Sen. Welborn.

10:17:54 Director Amanda Kaster concluded the DNRC presentation.

10:18:11 Sen. Ellis asked for some explanation of the handout.

10:19:00 Rob Miller responded.

10:19:37 Chair Holmlund asked if expired funds go back into the general fund.

10:19:43 Rob Miller responded.

10:20:01 Chair Holmlund changed agenda to avoid schedule conflicts. He asked Department of Environmental Quality to present information.

Department of Environmental Quality

10:20:30 Rob Miller presented overview of Department of Environmental Quality handout. ([Exhibit 3](#))

10:23:19 Director Chris Dorrington, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) presented budget overview. Chris recognized George Mathieus, who will soon retire, for his many years of service. The room applauded.

10:32:00 Chair Holmlund welcomed members of DEQ to the committee meeting.

10:32:19 George Mathieus, Deputy Director, DEQ, thanked the committee and assured them that DEQ is in good hands for the future.

10:33:42 Chair Holmlund stated that he met with DEQ and appreciated the good conversation they had. He looks forward to working with them.

10:34:09 Sonja Nowakowski, Administrator for Air, Energy, and Mining division, DEQ, addressed two questions. First, the feasibility study of advanced nuclear reactors and the role DEQ will play. Secondly, the question of open cut, or sand and gravel operations.

10:36:57 Sen. Ellis asked if Ms. Nowakowski would talk about why the largest transfer of funds was allocated to her division. Why did that happen and what was the impact.

10:37:35 Sonja referred this question to Chris Dorrington.

10:37:49 Director Dorrington responded.

10:39:05 Sen. Ellis clarified what the transfer of funds means.

10:39:29 Director Dorrington responded.

10:39:53 Rep. Keane asked if the Department of Administration pays for remodeling.

10:40:15 Chris Dorrington responded.

10:41:10 Amy Steinmetz, Administrator, Water Quality Division, DEQ, introduced herself.

10:41:46 Jenny Chambers, Division Administrator, Waste Management & Remediation Division, DEQ, presented an update on Orphan Share and petroleum tank clean up.

10:50:32 Executive Director Terry Wadsworth, Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Board, DEQ, presented a brief fiscal summary.

10:51:16 Chair Holmlund commended the departments for working together. He asked for public testimony.

10:52:41 Rep. Keane confirmed that public testimony is important.

Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

10:53:11 Rob Miller presented a brief overview of the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP) fiscal report. ([Exhibit 4](#))

10:59:08 Dustin Temple, Deputy Director, Department of Fish, FWP, presented an overview of department.

11:06:19 Ken McDonald, Administrator, Wildlife Division, DNRC, presented information on the upcoming hunting season.

11:14:34 Chair Holmlund asked about the wolf packs.

11:15:05 Ken McDonald responded.

11:15:29 Chair Holmlund asked if they have found wolves in eastern Montana.

11:15:34 Ken McDonald responded.

11:16:11 Chair asked what the status is on the money set aside for fish cleaning stations.

11:16:32 Deputy Director Dustin Temple responded.

11:16:59 Chair Holmlund asked about Hell Creek water system.

11:17:05 Deputy Director Dustin Temple responded.

11:17:21 Rep. Curdy, Environmental Quality Council member (EQC), asked Deputy Director Temple to address the dock situation.

11:18:01 Deputy Director Dustin Temple responded.

11:18:28 Sen. Ellis asked Deputy Director Temple for a more detailed fiscal breakdown.

11:19:26 Deputy Director Dustin Temple responded.

11:20:28 Sen. Ellis asked about the transfer of funds from fisheries to technical services and administration.

11:20:59 Deputy Director Dustin Temple responded.

11:21:32 Sen. Ellis asked for explanation of the water program.

11:21:45 Deputy Director Dustin Temple responded.

11:22:10 Rep. Keane asked if they have the authority to spend their money and what they would use it for if they did.

11:23:06 Deputy Director Dustin Temple responded.

11:24:15 Rep. Keane clarified if general license fees would remain the same.

11:24:38 Deputy Director Dustin Temple responded.

11:25:40 Rep. Keane asked Mr. Temple to clarify what they can spend.

11:25:51 Deputy Director Dustin Temple responded.

11:26:45 Rep. Keane asked if the federal funding received has a separate account or if it is added to the general fund.

11:27:01 Deputy Director Dustin Temple responded.

11:27:30 Rep. Keane asked how they deal with the increase in federal funds.

11:27:54 Deputy Director Dustin Temple responded.

11:29:20 Rep. Keane asks if the unused money is returned.

11:29:45 Deputy Director Dustin Temple responded.

11:30:06 Sen. Ellis asked how many years has FWP been reverting money back to the Federal government.

11:30:32 Deputy Director Dustin Temple responded.

11:31:20 Sen. Ellis asked Deputy Director Temple to provide information about the years there was a reversion in funds.

11:31:49 Sen. Jacobson asked if the federal money is used for operational dollars or OTO dollars.

11:32:00 Deputy Director Dustin Temple responded.

11:32:18 Sen. Jacobson asked if some of the money goes to the board of investments each year.

11:32:38 Deputy Director Dustin Temple responded.

11:32:54 Sen. Jacobson inquired about the size of the investment account.

11:33:00 Deputy Director Dustin Temple responded.

11:33:04 Sen. Jacobson asked if the Hell Creek reservation system will be similar to other parks.

11:33:29 Deputy Director Dustin Temple responded.

11:34:00 Sen. Jacobson asked if the increase in out of state licenses are above what was budgeted.

11:34:11 Deputy Director Dustin Temple responded.

11:35:05 Sen. Jacobson clarified that it is primarily hunting and not just fishing.
11:35:09 Deputy Director Dustin Temple responded.
11:35:42 Rep. Custer, EQC, asked Mr. Temple what he thinks was the outcome of reducing the passport fee.
11:36:10 Deputy Director Dustin Temple responded.
11:37:39 Sen. Jacobson asked about allocation of money.
11:37:55 Deputy Director Dustin Temple responded.
11:38:27 Rep. Keane asked if Mr. Temple regretted not using the Pitman-Robertson money.
11:38:39 Deputy Director Dustin Temple responded.
11:39:06 Rep. Curdy, EQC, asked what LWCF money will do to the program.
11:39:23 Deputy Director Dustin Temple responded.
11:40:30 Sen. Ellis asked Deputy Director Dustin Temple to include any reversion of DJ money in his report.
11:40:44 Deputy Director Dustin Temple responded.
11:41:14 Chair Holmlund thanked the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks for working together with other departments.
11:41:36 Deputy Director Dustin Temple responded.
11:42:19 Rep. Fielder, EQC, expressed his disappointment that the committee has not received much wolf collaring information.
11:43:48 Ken McDonald, FWP, responded.
11:45:05 Rep. Fielder, EQC, clarified that if the conditions are good, they can use all the money allocated.
11:45:20 Ken McDonald responded.
11:45:41 Chair Holmlund asked if there is any public comment. There was not any public comment.

Department of Livestock

11:45:55 Rob Miller presented brief overview of Department of Livestock fiscal report. (**Exhibit 5**)
11:48:37 Executive Officer Mike Honeycutt, Department of Livestock (MDOL), presented an overview of the handout.
12:12:10 Rep. Curdy, EQC, inquired how much money do the transfer fees generate for the board of livestock during the biennium.
12:13:01 Executive Officer Mike Honeycutt responded.
12:14:15 Sen. Ellis asked if she could get a copy of the livestock loss compensation report.
12:14:56 Executive Officer Mike Honeycutt responded.
12:15:44 Rep. Marler, EQC, asked how they monitor for disease in wild animals.
12:16:28 Executive Officer Mike Honeycutt responded.
12:16:57 Rep. Hamlett, EQC, asked how many brands are actively in use.
12:17:38 Executive Officer Mike Honeycutt responded.

Lunch

13:06:08 Reconvene

Department of Agriculture

13:06:49 Rob Miller, LFD analyst, presented overview of the Department of Agriculture. (**Exhibit 6**)

13:11:02 Sen. Ellis asked Mr. Miller if the 91.1% of funds expended includes the budget modification.

13:11:39 Rob Miller responded.

13:12:16 Christy Clark, Acting Director, Department of Agriculture, presented an overview of progress.

13:16:31 Sen. Ellis asked for a description of the Montana meat processing improvement grant program (MMPIG).

13:17:05 Christy Clark responded.

13:18:15 Sen. Ellis asked if the grants were allotted equally throughout the state.

13:18:32 Christy Clark responded.

13:18:48 Rep. Jacobson asked with the switch to biodiesel, will that change the landscape of the golden triangle.

13:19:30 Christy Clark responded.

13:21:24 Rep. Curdy, EQC, thanked Ms. Clark for the meat processing grant as it has allowed public school to offer the class to their students.

13:22:39 Christy Clark responded.

13:23:46 Rep. Curdy, EQC, commented.

13:23:55 Christy Clark responded.

13:24:11 Sen. Jacobson asked if canola would be an eligible product for property tax exemption.

13:24:31 Christy Clark responded.

13:24:42 Sen. Jacobson stated that would be a great incentive.

13:25:04 Chair Holmlund asked if custom meat processing is growing with slaughter numbers.

13:25:32 Christy Clark responded.

13:26:18 Chair Holmlund commented.

13:26:28 Christy Clark responded.

13:26:48 Chair Holmlund asked for public comment and there were none.

Department of Transportation

13:28:21 Alice Hecht, LFD Fiscal Analyst II, presented the fiscal year-end report for Department of Transportation. (**Exhibit 7**)

13:42:15 Larry Flynn, CFO Department of Transportation, (DOT) presented expenditure breakdown.

13:50:21 Sen. Ellis asked Mr. Flynn to explain some of the expenditures.

13:51:27 Larry Flynn responded.

13:53:55 Rep. Curdy, EQC, asked how the fuel tax is allocated.

13:55:08 Larry Flynn responded.

13:55:50 Rep. Curdy, EQC, asked why construction was halted on Hwy 269.
13:56:32 Larry Flynn responded.
13:56:32 Sen. Ellis asked about the infrastructure match.
13:56:53 Larry Flynn responded.
13:57:14 Sen. Ellis asked if the unused money from other states also requires a match.
13:57:29 Larry Flynn responded.
13:57:47 Chair Holmlund asked about the availability of contractors.
13:58:03 Larry Flynn responded.
13:58:29 Chair Holmlund asked if bridge inspections have been implemented.
13:58:49 Larry Flynn responded.
13:59:24 Chair Holmlund asked if they are having trouble finding employees that meet the specifications needed.
13:59:27 Larry Flynn responded.
13:59:53 Rep. Fielder, EQC, asked for more information on roads and bridges that have been repaired.
14:00:31 Larry Flynn responded.

Workplan, committee discussion

14:01:01 Chair Holmlund asked for a report on the Good Neighbor Authority.
14:01:40 Director Amanda Kaster, DNRC, deferred to Sonya Germann.
14:01:58 Sonya Germann, Administrator, Forestry Division, DNRC, responded.
14:10:05 Chair Holmlund asked if they have had any fires in the area.
14:10:15 Sonya Germann responded.
14:11:05 Chair Holmlund asked why Ms. Germann believes they were able to extinguish the fire quickly.
14:11:21 Sonya Germann responded.
14:11:54 Chair Holmlund asked if they log the useable timber from the fires and process it.
14:12:10 Sonya Germann responded.
14:12:49 Chair Holmlund asked if the timber from the Ashland and Lame Deer fire will be processed.
14:13:18 Sonya Germann responded.
14:14:20 Chair Holmlund asks if any mills have opened or expanded due to the Good Neighbor Authority.
14:14:31 Sonya Germann responded.
14:16:01 Chair Holmlund asked if the mill that shut down caused a reduction in the amount of lumber produced.
14:16:07 Sonya Germann responded.
14:17:49 Chair Holmlund asked if they shut down due to old equipment.
14:17:54 Sonya Germann responded.
14:18:35 Chair Holmlund asked if the federal government is as excited about Good Neighbor Authority as this committee.
14:18:42 Sonya Germann responded.

14:19:26 Chair Holmlund asked if there has been a comparison between Montana and Idaho after 2-3 years of the Good Neighbor Authority program.

14:19:34 Sonya Germann responded.

14:19:43 Chair Holmlund stated that it was a pleasant surprise they did not ask for more money. He commended the leadership.

14:20:16 Sonya Germann responded.

14:20:47 Sen. Ellis asked the staff what the workplan will be.

14:21:00 Chair Holmlund stated the work plan will consist of discussions the committee will have in the future.

14:21:21 Sen. Ellis commented.

14:22:27 Rob Miller responded.

14:23:25 Sen. Ellis stated there are other issues she would like to discuss in the future.

14:24:29 Chair Holmlund commented that all those things are appropriate and may be discussed.

14:25:27 Rep. Fielder, EQC, agreed that the Good Neighbor Authority should stay remain a priority.

14:26:38 Chair Holmlund agreed with Rep. Fielder.

14:26:44 Sen. Ellis clarified the process.

14:27:02 Chair Holmlund stated it is an evolving process and Rob Miller will place on the agenda items brought to his attention.

14:27:25 Sen. Jacobson stated that it is his understanding that subjects would be limited to those with a fiscal impact.

14:28:08 Director Amanda Kaster responded.

14:28:46 Chair Holmlund commented.

14:28:51 Rob Miller stated this is the place to present ideas, including budget issues.

14:29:37 Chair Holmlund asked Sen. Ellis if she had an issue she wanted to bring forward.

14:29:40 Sen. Ellis would like to consolidate the reports to those who have finished an assessment of success.

14:31:11 Chair Holmlund commented.

14:32:02 Ken McDonald, Division Administrator, Wildlife Division, FWP, presented a wolf update.

14:43:48 Rep. Fielder, EQC, commented on the large number of wolves in Montana based on the Montana wolf management plan guidelines.

Fire Fund Update

14:45:51 Sonya Germann, Administrator, DNRC, presented the Fire Fund status update.

14:47:35 Sen. Ellis asked if it is possible for the state to be reimbursed for some of its costs.

14:48:32 Sonya Germann redirected to Sue Clark.

14:50:22 Deputy Administrator Sue Clark, Forestry Division, DNRC, responded.

14:52:13 Sen. Ellis asked where the money goes that is allocated for the fire fund.

14:52:30 Sue Clark redirected to Chief Financial Officer Patricia Greberis, DNRC.

14:52:47 Rob Miller responded.

- 14:54:02 Sen. Ellis asked when funds come in 3-5 years later, does it automatically revert back to the fire fund or is it used somewhere else.
- 14:54:20 Rob Miller responded.

Monitor federal coronavirus stimulus appropriations provided in CARES Act II (HB 630) and American Rescue Plan Act (HB 632) to the Department of Transportations for infrastructure projects and contractor payments

- 14:54:58 Larry Flynn, CFO, Department of Transportation (DOT) presented a fiscal overview.
- 14:59:16 Sen. Ellis asked when Mr. Flynn will give the committee an update.
- 15:00:11 Larry Flynn responded.
- 15:01:36 Chair Holmlund asked the Environmental Quality Council if they would like to continue to be a part of the committee meetings.

Update from Environmental Quality Council

- 15:02:27 Rep. Curdy, EQC, responded.
- 15:03:23 Rep. Fielder, EQC, agreed it was beneficial to participate in the committee meeting.
- 15:04:03 Rep. Jacobson was in agreement.

Updates and/or interaction with Environmental Quality Council

- 15:06:43 Chair Holmlund asked if the EQC meetings are already scheduled with the LFC and IBC meetings.
- 15:06:52 Sen. Jacobson responded.
- 15:07:03 Joe Kolman, LSD Director of Research and Environmental Policy, staff EQC, responded.
- 15:08:54 Chair Holmlund encouraged meeting together with EQC.
- 15:10:14 Rep. Curdy, EQC, responded.
- 15:10:43 Chair Holmlund stated his interest in understanding what is being discussed within the EQC.
- 15:11:52 Sen. Ellis stated she would like to limit duplicated information.
- 15:13:55 Rep. Fielder, EQC, stated he would like to know what the conservation districts are doing with their funding.
- 15:15:01 Chair Holmlund asked Executive Director Rebecca Boslough, to give update.
- 15:15:14 Executive Director Rebecca Boslough, Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD), responded.
- 15:16:44 Chair Holmlund asked if they have given their information pamphlet to EQC.
- 15:16:55 Rebecca Boslough responded.
- 15:17:06 Chair Holmlund stated that it would be beneficial for EQC to get that information.
- 15:17:12 Rebecca Boslough responded.
- 15:18:21 Chair Holmlund asked if there is anyone from Revenue Interim Committee that can give update on HJ6.

HJ 6: Study resources trust fund, Revenue Interim Committee (RIC)

15:18:51 Joe Kolman, LSD Director of Research and Environmental Policy, Staff EQC, responded.

15:20:29 Chair Holmlund commented.

15:20:44 Rob Miller responded.

15:22:03 Chair Holmlund stated he would like information on decision packages the committee had approved within Section C and implementation of those funds.

15:22:33 Sen. Ellis stated she would like to cover the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) funding formula.

15:23:26 Chair Holmlund commented.

15:23:35 Sen. Ellis clarified that she would like updates as there is progress.

15:25:02 Chair Holmlund responded.

15:25:12 Sen. Jacobson agreed with Sen. Ellis. He asked about the money invested with the board of investments.

15:27:25 Rob Miller responded.

15:28:23 Sen. Jacobson said he would like an overview of the money that it out there and the intent for it.

15:29:06 Rob Miller responded.

15:30:31 Sen. Jacobson responded.

15:30:37 Rob Miller responded.

15:31:10 Chair Holmlund stated the committee would need some history in order to make a decision.

15:31:38 Rob Miller responded.

15:31:49 Sen. Jacobson asked if all the accounts were depleted in the 2017 special session.

15:32:26 Chair Holmlund replied that this is why the committee would need the history.

15:32:38 Rob Miller responded.

15:35:09 Sen. Jacobson asked if the committee may get an education on the history of the accounts and the legislative authority of these accounts.

15:35:29 Chair Holmlund responded.

15:35:42 Sen. Jacobson would like to just know what is there.

15:35:51 Chair Holmlund responded.

15:35:56 Sen. Ellis asked if the different funds could be categorized.

15:37:09 Sen. Jacobson reiterated that he would just like a general idea of accounts.

15:37:45 Rob Miller responded.

15:38:58 Sen. Jacobson responded.

15:39:31 Rob Miller responded.

15:40:29 Chair Holmlund asked if Rep. Schillinger or Rep. Read had any input.

15:41:23 Rob Miller asked if the committee would like the preliminary budget in December 2022 to view before the 2023 Session.

15:42:41 Chair Holmlund asked if December 15 is the last day to get the preliminary budget before session.

15:42:47 Rob Miller responded.

15:43:39 Chair Holmlund responded.

15:44:10 Rob Miller said they could do a detailed report.

15:45:53 Sen. Ellis said it would be useful to repeat the overview of each agency again in the new fiscal year.

15:46:23 Chair Holmlund asked if this is the workplan that should be adopted.

15:47:25 Rob Miller responded.

15:47:30 Chair Holmlund commented.

15:47:41 Sen. Ellis would like to forgo training today.

15:48:08 Rob Miller responded.

15:49:00 Rep. Holmlund has left

15:49:09 Rob Miller suggested reading items for workplan.

15:49:29 Sen. Ellis would like an update for the fire fund.

15:50:25 Rob Miller responded.

15:51:50 Sen. Ellis was thinking of March.

15:52:26 Rob Miller presented a list of possibilities.

15:52:46 Sen. Ellis responded.

15:53:13 Rep. Holmlund has arrived

15:53:20 Rob Miller responded.

15:54:00 Alice Hecht suggested the committee give topics of interest before each meeting.

15:54:51 Rob Miller responded.

15:55:19 Alice Hecht suggested December would be a good time for an update.

15:55:49 Sen. Ellis stated December would be a good time because there would be more information on Montana infrastructure as well.

15:56:25 Alice Hecht responded.

15:56:38 Rob Miller suggested a list of items for the work plan.

15:58:56 Alice Hecht responded.

15:59:46 Rob Miller stated many of funds are forecastable.

16:00:24 Sen. Jacobson responded.

16:01:31 Alice Hecht stated they have a formula for forecasting expenditures.

16:02:14 Sen. Jacobson said it would be interesting to see an analysis.

16:02:43 Alice Hecht said she would bring it to the next committee meeting.

16:02:57 Rob Miller reviewed all the items that the committee would like on the work plan.

16:04:00 Sen. Ellis would like a presentation on supplemental reports from the agencies.

16:04:14 Rob Miller responded.

16:04:21 Sen. Ellis would like anything that will end up in HB 3.

16:04:36 Chair Holmlund responded.

16:04:52 Sen. Ellis said she means section c agencies.

16:05:38 Rob Miller suggested a fiscal YTD report for each meeting.

16:06:27 Sen. Ellis asked about a program that may not have enough funding.

16:06:50 Rob Miller responded.

16:07:03 Sen. Jacobson confirmed that the committee would receive a report on HJ 27.

16:07:22 Rob Miller asked if they would also like a report on HJ 6.

16:07:30 Chair Holmlund responded.

16:07:55 Sen. Jacobson suggested also SJ 35, and questioned why the maintenance cost for DOT was 35% less since 2017.

16:08:35 Sen. Ellis responded.

16:08:55 Alice Hecht responded.

16:09:09 Sen. Jacobson responded.

16:09:21 Alice Hecht stated it may have been a light winter.

16:09:30 Rob Miller responded.

16:09:38 Sen. Jacobson confirmed that the committee would look at all those things.

16:09:44 Alice Hecht responded.

16:10:26 Sen. Jacobson questioned the possibility of leveraging some of those funds for other projects.

16:10:48 Alice Hecht responded.

16:11:57 Sen. Jacobson confirmed the state has an account that is flexible and does not have to go through the commission. He also asked if the committee would get information on how the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and infrastructure money is being spent.

16:12:38 Rob Miller analyst, responded.

16:12:47 Sen. Jacobson stated he would like to know how the habitat and marijuana sales monies are being spent.

16:13:48 Rob Miller responded.

16:14:02 Sen. Jacobson clarified his requests.

16:14:23 Rob Miller responded.

16:14:39 Sen. Ellis stated recreational marijuana does not start until 2023.

16:15:15 Rob Miller read the updated work plan list.

16:16:08 Chair Holmlund responded.

16:16:23 Sen. Ellis suggested the committee discuss one or two agencies per meeting.

16:16:41 Rob Miller responded.

16:17:20 Chair Holmlund stated he would like to start with Department of Natural Resources and Conservation at the next committee meeting.

16:17:23 Rob Miller responded.

16:17:43 Sen. Ellis thinks DNRC is enough for the next meeting.

16:17:51 Rob Miller asked if the committee would like to hear from Good Neighbor Authority each time.

16:18:00 Chair Holmlund asked Mr. Miller to contact Good Neighbor Authority to ask if there is an update.

16:18:12 Rob Miller suggested a possible field trip with Good Neighbor Authority.

16:18:30 Chair Holmlund responded.

16:18:53 Rob Miller suggested moving a possible field trip to June.

16:19:18 Chair Holmlund responded.

16:19:23 Sen. Ellis stated the committee would have to add a day if they wanted to go on a field trip.

- 16:19:38 Rob Miller asked if the committee would like an update on Good Neighbor Authority in December.
- 16:19:50 Chair Holmlund responded.
- 16:20:01 Rob Miller stated he could give a brief report.
- 16:20:54 Sen. Ellis suggested the Chair and the staff decide what the agenda will be for each meeting.
- 16:21:50 Rob Miller responded.
- 16:22:22 Sen. Jacobson moved that the committee adopt the workplan as described.
- Vote:**
- 16:22:22 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:22:51